क्योंकि घरेलू उत्पादन नगण्य हैं । घरेलू मांग में आयात के प्रतिशत के बारे में आंकड़ें संकलित नहीं किए जाते हैं,यद्यपि सोने,चांदी और मोती तथा बहुमूल्य रत्नों से संबंधित सम्पूर्ण आश्यकता की पूर्ति व्यावहारिक रूपसे आयातों के द्वारा ही की जाती हैं ।

Export of Tea to USA

*205. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea exporters of the country have visited U.S.A. in recent past to explore possibilities of export of tea in US. Premium tea market;

(b) whether some exporters of tea who are based in Kangra Valley in Himachal Pradesh also visited USA;

(c) whether Government have taken some initiatives to ensure that Indian tea export increases in USA where annual tea import is bout 90 million kg;

(d) whether Government propose to impress upon Government of Himachal Pradesh to provide all assistance to growers of tea in Kangra Valley for increasing the growth as well as the quality;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the resons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes Sir. A delegation of Government and tea industry representatives visited U.S.A. in October 98 for promotion of export of Indian tea.

(b) The major consumption of Indian tea in U.S.A. is of Black Tea. Production of Black Tea in Himachal Pradesh is negligiable. Therefore, no exporter of tea based in Kangra valley in Himachal Pradesh was included in the Tea Delegation to U.S.A.

(c) Government and the Tea Board have taken various steps to promote value-added forms of tea such as instant tea, iced tea, packet tea and tea bags in U.S.A. With the gradual change in con- , sumer preference from cold tea to hot tea, efforts are being made to promote premium quality teas from India. Tea" Board has been operating an Office in U.S.A. exclusively for promotion of Indian teas. Other steps taken by the Govt, and the Tea Board for promotion of Indian tea in foreign markets Include continuous analysis of country wise exports, giving special attention to areas offering potential, removal of bottlenecks in exports, participation in major trade. fairs/exhibitions, media campaigns to increase consumer awareness, brand prom-' otion and campaigns to popularise the Tea Board marketing symbol.

(d) to (f) Tea Board is operating various developmental schemes for which financial assistance by way of long term loan and subsidy is being extended for activities such as replantation, extension planting, setting up of new plantations,

assistance to small growers in extension activities, research and development etc. The developmental schemes promoted by the Tea Board are *inter-alia* applicable to the State of Himachal Pradesh also.

Government accommodation in occupation of Non-Government Servants

*207. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the total number of general pool accommodation under occupation of persons, not being Government servants as on 31st October, 1998, type-wise;

(b)the reasons for making allotment of Government houses to them; since when these are under allotment and the terms and conditions thereof;

(c)whether there is any proposal to get these houses vacated;

(d)and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) As on 31.10.98, 207 General Pool residential houses are in occuptation of non-Government ser-